Abstract

Device and method for performing operations at a variable
speed

A processor comprises a computation unit for performing an op-
eration at a speed and a state unit, which has a state which
changes in response to execution of an operation by the compu-
tation unit, the speed of the computation unit being con-
trolled according to the state of the state unit. The state
unit can e.g. be a capacitor or a unit with a thermal capaci-
tance and controlling the speed of the computation unit can
e.g. be effected via the frequency of a clock rate. In crypto-
graphic applications the state unit is preferably so designed
that the speed decreases when an operation is executed.